

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 CU-04 PC-10 /125 W

----- 085429

O R 121030Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9685

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0651

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: TROUBLE BREWING IN UDORN

FOLLOWING RECEIVED ACTION BANGKOK INFO VIENTIANE CHIANG MAI
FROM UDORN JANUARY 12. REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 9

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: TROUBLE BREWING IN UDORN

1. SUMMARY. AS OF 1200 JAN 12, TROUBLE WAS STILL BREWING
IN UDORN BUT SO FAR CONSISTED ONLY OF TALK RATHER THAN
ANY ACTION AGAINST US INSTALLATIONS. POT STARTED BOILING
JAN 11 AS STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST HIGH PRICES, AND
BANGKOK JOURNALISTS IN PANEL DISCUSSION AT UDORN TEACHERS
COLLEGE (UTC) CRITICIZED PRESENCE US MILITARY AND CIA.

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MORE CRITICISM OF CIA ANTICIPATED DURING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

JAN 12 WITH INDICATION THAT STUDENTS MAY MARCH OUT TO PROTEST AT HEADQUARTERS 333, THAI COUNTERPART TO CIA OFFICE IN UDORN. 333 COMMANDER, GOVERNOR, AND VICE GOVERNOR HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT AMB VISIT SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK MIGHT ALSO PROVOKE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. MEANWHILE, LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN PASSED OUT AMONG AIR AMERICA (AA) THAI EMPLOYEES CALLING FOR HIGHER WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS, AND AA JAN 12 BEGAN LAYING OFF SOME THAI BECAUSE OF REDUCED WORKLOAD. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STARTED BALL ROLLING MORNING JAN 11 BY MARCHING TO CENTER OF TOWN TO PROTEST AGAINST HIGH PRICES. THEY WERE LATER JOINED BY SOME UTC STUDENTS AND CROWD INCREASED TO ABOUT 2,000 WHICH REMAINED UNTIL EVENING.

3. VICE GOVERNOR METHI, IN GOVERNOR'S ABSENCE, HAD PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING THAT MORNING WITH MERCHANTS TO DISCUSS WAYS TO KEEP PRICES DOWN. STUDENTS ALSO SPOKE AT THIS MEETING.

4. MEANWHILE, IN MORNING THREE JOURNALISTS FROM BANGKOK TURNED PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT "POLLUTION IN THAI LITERATURE" AT UTC INTO CRITICISM OF POLLUTION FROM US PRESENCE. ANUT APHAPHIROM, SATHIAN JANTHAIMATHORN, AND WITHAYAKORN CHIANGKUN SAID US LARGE-LY RESPONSIBLE FOR THAI ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY OIL SHORTAGE. THEY ALSO BLAMED US MILITARY PRESENCE FOR CREATING PROBLEMS OF PROSTITUTION AND AMERASIAN CHILDREN AND ATTACKED US INTERFERENCE IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SPEAKERS TRIED TO INCITE AUDIENCE TO PROTEST AGAINST PRESENCE US MILITARY AND CIA IN UDORN. THEY SAID PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WERE USED BY CIA TO INFILTRATE THAI EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. THAI COULD THROW OUT CIA EASILY, THEY ADDED, JUST AS INDIA HAD DONE AND AS EGYPTIANS HAD EXPELLED RUSSIANS. AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 800, MOSTLY STUDENTS BUT INCLUDING SOME TOWNSPEOPLE, SEEMED IMPRESSED BY ARGUMENTS. IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN SIMULTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION ELSEWHERE AGAINST HIGH PRICES, AUDIENCE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN MUCH LARGER AND MIGHT WELL HAVE STARTED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST US INSTALLATIONS.

5. ATTACK ON CIA ALSO SCHEDULED AS TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUED UTC DEBATE JANUARY 12 IN WHICH MORE SPEAKERS FROM BANGKOK, INCLUDING TWO OF CONSTITUTION 13, SLATED TO PARTICIPATE. 333 HEADQUARTERS ANTICIPATES STUDENTS WILL MARCH THERE TO LODGE PROTEST.

6. 333 COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL THON EARLIER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AMB VISIT TO UDORN SCHEDULED JANUARY 18 TO 20 MIGHT PROVOKE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. UDORN VICE GOVERNOR METHI

JANUARY 11 EXPRESSED HOPE VISIT WOULD BE KEPT SECRET, AND GOVERNOR ANEK JANUARY 12 TOLD ME HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE LIKE THAT TO CHIANG MAI.

7. AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 11 FORMER PEOPLE'S PARTY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT BUNKHUM JANSRISURIYAWONG AND THREE UTC STUDENTS HELD ANOTHER PANEL DISCUSSION ON YOUTH AND DEMOCRACY BEFORE AUDIENCE OF ABOUT 50. BUNKHUM SAID THAILAND WAS NOT ABLE TO SOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS BECAUSE IT WAS TOO CLOSELY TIED TO US.

8. TROUBLE ALSO POSSIBLE AT AA WHERE LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN PASSED OUT TO THAI EMPLOYEES CALLING FOR HIGHER WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS. PERSONS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE NOT FORMALLY PRESENTED DEMANDS DIRECTLY TO MANAGEMENT BUT DID SO TO THAI LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO PASSED THEM ON TO AA. MANAGEMENT NOW ROUNDING UP SIGNATURES OF SOME WORKERS WHO SAY THAT THOSE SIGNING DEMANDS DO NOT IN FACT REPRESENT THEM AS THEY CLAIM.

9. MEANWHILE AA NOTIFIED 30 THAI JANUARY 12 THAT THEY WOULD BE LAID OFF IMMEDIATELY AND PLANS SIMILARLY NOTIFY ANOTHER 100 JANUARY 14. LAYOFFS TIED TO REDUCED OPERATIONS, NOT WAGE DEMANDS, BUT TIMING UNFORTUNATE. BROH-KAHN UNQUOTE KINTNER

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